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(54) **ELECTRONIC BOOK PRODUCTION APPARATUS, ELECTRONIC BOOK SYSTEM, ELECTRONIC BOOK PRODUCTION METHOD, AND NON-TRANSITORY COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electronic book production apparatus includes; an image obtaining unit; a character area detecting unit; a character recognizing unit; a character position information obtaining unit; a reading-order determining unit which determines a reading order among the character areas in the page image based on positions of the character areas in the page image and continuity from a character to another character between the character areas in the page image; an electronic book data generating unit which generates electronic book data including character information indicating the recognized characters, the character position information indicating the position of each of the recognized characters in the page image, and order information about the characters or the character areas corresponding to the reading order among the character areas in the page image; and an electronic book data output unit which outputs the electronic book data generated by the electronic book data generating unit.